

Nebraska Teens in the Driver Seat 2016-2017

What is Teens in the Driver Seat? Teens in the Driver Seat® is a teen driven peer-to-peer educational program that focuses solely on traffic safety and addresses all major driving risks for this age group. Teens, along with a sponsor, help shape the program and are responsible for implementing it.



How do schools participate? Through generous funding from the Nebraska Office of Highway Safety and Drive Smart Nebraska Coalition partners, this program is available at **no cost** to Nebraska high schools. Schools just need to fill out an application to be considered, which can be found at <http://dhhs.ne.gov/PublicHealth/InjuryPrevention/Pages/MotorVehicle.aspx>. Participating schools are provided technical assistance, materials and grant opportunities to support their TDS program. Schools will be supported in every way possible to have a successful program.



Why participate? TDS provides a great opportunity to make a difference and save lives! With car crashes the leading cause of death for Nebraska teens, this program can have a huge impact on your school and community.

How do schools make an impact? Start by having fun educating your peers and school about the five major risks to teen drivers: alcohol, driving at night/fatigue, speeding/racing, distractions (cell phone use, texting, and passengers) and not wearing a seat belt. TDS brings together young drivers, parents, school administrators and other stakeholders to reduce teen driving fatalities. The TDS program is designed to address both awareness and behavior by using peer pressure in a positive and productive direction. And best of all, it works! In Nebraska, TDS schools are seeing increased seat belt use and less distracted driving.

What do participating schools have to do? First, schools (students, administrators, teachers, advisors) have to be passionate about making a difference in the lives of teen drivers. Schools need a committed group of 10 to 12 student representatives and an adult teacher/sponsor to get the program up and running. Student representatives can be existing student groups such as the student council or FCCLA, or it can be a combination of students who create a new group altogether. Second, to be considered for this project, interested students and staff sponsors must submit a brief application. Third, selected schools will start getting the message out during the school year using TDS activities and materials. Activities done are reported online and count toward earning CA\$H for your school! Most of all, HAVE FUN! Go to t-driver.com to see what other schools have already done.

How? Schools selected to participate in Teens in the Driver Seat will start activities early in the 2016-2017 school year. The University of Texas A&M- Texas Transportation Institute is working with the Nebraska Injury Prevention Program to make this a success in our state. Schools will be provided a resource kit which provides materials to carry out TDS activities and technical assistance.



This program is proudly supported by the Drive Smart Nebraska Coalition, Nebraska Office of Highway Safety, AAA Nebraska, Nebraska Safety Council and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Injury Prevention Program.

For more information or questions, please contact Jeanne Bietz, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Injury Prevention Program at Jeanne.bietz@nebraska.gov or 402-471-0361.